**Acts 9 – Church Multiplication**

**The church spread throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria**

1. The spread of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ local & universal connected to the preaching of the word of God

 Acts 2:41 – 47 – and there were added about 3,000 souls that day

 Acts 4:32 – 37 – the congregation of those that believed were of one heart & soul

 Acts 5:12 – 16 – all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men & women were constantly added to their number

 Acts 6:7 – the word of God kept spreading and the number of disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many priests were becoming obedient to the faith

 Acts 12:24 – the word of the Lord continued to grow & to be multiplied

 16:5 – So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily

 19:20 – The word of the Lord was growing mightily & prevailing

**Keyword – Church – lit. the called out**

1. The church – God’s people are those who have heard the gospel call to be saved and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation

 Rom 1:6 – among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ, to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints

1. The church called – has made the good confession

 Matt. 16:16 – you are the Christ the Son of the living God

 Matt 16:18 – I say to you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build My church – called ones

1. The church is the body of Christ from all nations & tongues

 Rom. 12:5 – so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another

 Eph. 1: 22 -23 – He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all

**The church enjoyed peace**

**Keyword – lit. peace – an absence of war**

Acts 12:20, 24:3 – examples of the use of peace – absence of war

1. The church was scattered by persecution – Acts 8:1 – throughout Judea, Samaria
2. Paul the great persecutor of the church has been converted now preaches the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ – Acts 9:28

**The church was being built up**

**Keyword – lit. built up from the foundation**

1. The church is built up by the preaching of the Word of God & the gospel

 Acts 20:32 – and now I commend you to God & to the word of His grace which is able to build you up & to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified

 Acts 20:24 – I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God

1. The church was built up by the love & care that they showed to each other

 Acts 4:32, 35 - and the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them…they would distribute to each as any had need

 1 Thess. 5:11 – Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing

**The church was living in the fear of the Lord**

**Keyword – going –lit. to lead or order one’s life**

**Keyword – lit. fear, deep reverence**

1. The church lives in the reality of the power & work of God among them

Acts 2:43 – everyone kept feeling a sense of awe, and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles

 Acts 5:5 – and as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last, and great fear came over all who heard of it

 Acts 5:11 – and great fear came over the whole church

 Acts 19:17 – this became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus, and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified

2Cor. 5:11 – therefore knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men

 Eph. 5:21 – be subject to one another in the fear of Christ

**The church was living in the comfort of the Holy Spirit**

**Keyword – lit. encouragement, comfort**

1. The church lived in the encouragement & fellowship of the Holy Spirit
2. The Holy Spirit worked in the lives of believers to encourage others – Acts 4:36. 9:27
3. The Holy Spirit empowered the preaching of the word of God & the gospel – Acts 4:31
4. The Holy Spirit filled the church with joy & the presence & power of the Holy Spirit – Acts 13:52
5. The Lord Jesus Christ promised the encouraging presence & power of the Holy Spirit on the church – Acts 1:8

**The church continued to increase**

**Keyword – lit. multiplied, abound**

1. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ multiplied to every nation & tongue

 Matt. 16:18 – I will build My church

 Acts 1:8 – you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world